



# PUBLIC HEALTH BYTES

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Henrico Health Department's Newsletter

Working in partnership  
with the citizens of  
Henrico County to create  
the conditions for health.

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## Community Health Improvement

**September is Infant Mortality Awareness Month:** *Healthy People 2010 goal is 4.5 infant deaths per 1,000 live births.*

The Richmond Regional Summit on Infant Mortality will be held on October 22-23, 2007 at the Downtown Richmond Marriott. For details, call 795-4322 or visit

[www.regonline.com/RegionalSummit2007](http://www.regonline.com/RegionalSummit2007). Registration fee is \$55 (includes 12.5 Category I CME hours). Collaborators include Richmond City Healthy Start Initiative, Richmond City Health Department, VCU, Bon Secours, HCA, March of Dimes, Henrico Health Department, and Chesterfield Health Department among others.

## Communicable Diseases Update

**Hepatitis A:** The Health Department has investigated more than five Hepatitis A IgM positive cases in the past two months. Some of the cases have not met the clinical case definition, complicating decisions about contacts' prophylaxis. We are recommending follow up lab testing on these atypical cases to include testing for Hepatitis A IgG. For additional information on Hepatitis, CDC has educational slidesets for clinicians available at:

<http://www.cdc.gov/NCIDOD/diseases/hepatitis/slideset/index.htm>.

**Influenza:** The U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved expanding the population for use of the live, attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV) FluMist® to include children between the ages of 2 and 5. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that all children age 6 months to 59 months receive a vaccination to protect against influenza. Children under the age of 2 should not receive FluMist® because there was an increased risk of hospitalization and wheezing for this age group during the clinical trials. An updated Vaccine Information Statement (VIS) is undergoing approval and should be posted by October. See:

<http://www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/NEWS/2007/NEW01705.html>

## Prevention

**Prevention updates:** From the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF)... USPSTF recommends screening for sickle cell disease in newborns. Rating: **A Recommendation**. See <http://www.ahrq.gov/clinic/uspstf/uspshemo.htm>

## Emergency Preparedness

**Medical Reserve Corps (MRC):** The Henrico MRC continues to seek new volunteers. The next Henrico MRC training event will be on October 9th at 7:00 PM. This class will be for those seeking AED (Automated External Defibrillator) certification. The prerequisite for this course is current CPR certification. For more information on this class or becoming a volunteer for the MRC, call 501-4643 or visit

<http://www.co.henrico.va.us/health/mrc.html>.

## Pandemic Flu - ALERT PHASE: 3

**Pandemic/Avian Flu Update: Human Cases**—Since our last report, new human cases of H5N1 were confirmed in Indonesia (1) and Vietnam (6). Five of the Vietnam cases were confirmed retrospectively after quality assurance reviews of lab testing. The cumulative case fatality rate for human H5N1 cases is 60.97% (200 deaths/328 cases).

## Environmental Health

**Lead:** With the ongoing concern associated with toys and lead paint, parents will likely continue to seek answers from their health professionals. The Virginia Lead-Safe program has excellent resources for clinicians, parents, contractors, etc at its website:

<http://www.vahealth.org/leadsafe/publications.htm>

**West Nile Virus Update:** To date, West Nile Virus (WNV) positive mosquito pools have been reported in the following Henrico County zip codes: 23222, 23226, 23227, 23228, and 23230. No additional zip codes have been added to this list since the last edition of PHB. There have been three WNV human cases reported in Virginia in 2007 (Fairfax Co., Arlington Co., and Richmond City), making a total of 68 human WNV cases in Virginia since 2002, of which four have been fatal. Of Virginia's 2007 cases, the Arlington and Fairfax cases are confirmed and the Richmond case is presumptive without further lab testing. There have also been 3 imported cases identified in Virginia since 2002 (1 from Colorado in 2003, one from Colorado in 2007, and 1 from South Dakota in 2007). An important additional mosquito vector, now much more prevalent in our area, is the Asian tiger mosquito [*Aedes albopictus*]. One of the concerns about the Asian tiger, in addition to its ability to transmit West Nile, dengue and chikungunya viruses, is the concern that it is an aggressive biter that attacks throughout the day. Important home remediation efforts are necessary to decrease the Asian tiger population. If your patients have mosquito concerns they can call 226-6453 to request an inspection or obtain additional information. For updates on WNV activity in Henrico see: <http://www.co.henrico.va.us/health/westnile.html>.  
Information provided by David Gaines, PhD, VDH Entomologist

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